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Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999

Draft report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under item 113 appear in the report of the Committee contained in document A/53/485.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 3rd to 6th, 15th, 25th, 26th, 28th, 33rd and 37th to 45th meetings, on 2, 6, 7, 12, and 29 October, 12, 13, 16, 23 and 30 November and 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, and 14–16 December 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/53/SR.3–6, 15, 25, 26, 28, 33 and 37–45).

3. In accordance with the criteria for use of the contingency fund annexed to General Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987, the Committee, at its 45th meeting, on 16 December, considered a consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates that were subject to the criteria for the use of the contingency fund. The consolidated amount fell within the available balance of the contingency fund. The Committee therefore proceeded to approve the required amounts under the relevant sections of the programme budget.

4. Section II of the present report provides a summary of the recommendations of the Fifth Committee during the fifty-third session of the General Assembly on the revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General and on the programme budget implications of resolutions adopted by the Assembly, either on the recommendation of its Main Committees or in respect of items considered in plenary meeting.

5. Section III of the present report provides a summary of the special subjects considered by the Fifth Committee that led to the adoption of specific decisions to be recommended to the General Assembly.

6. The recommendations of the Fifth Committee are contained in section IV of the present report.

II. Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999

7. In its resolution 52/221 A and B of 22 December 1997, the General Assembly approved budget appropriations for the biennium 1998–1999 in the amount of $2,532,331,200 and income estimates in the amount of $363,840,300.

8. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee during the current session of the General Assembly on revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General, as well as on the programme budget implications of resolutions adopted by the Assembly under items considered by other Main Committees or in respect of items considered in plenary, have resulted in a net decrease in the approved level of appropriations in the amount of $5,627,700 and a net reduction in the approved income estimates in the amount of $1,150,700.

9. The revised estimates of expenditure and income approved by the Fifth Committee and the financial implications of resolutions recommended by other Main Committees and subsequently by the General Assembly are indicated, by expenditure and income section, below:

Section		*Amount approved in resolutions 52/221 A and B*	*Increase/(decrease) approved at the current session*	*Total*
			(United States dollars)	
A. Expenditure sections				
1A.	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	41 454 500		
	(a) First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(689 700)	
	(b) Administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (A/C.5/53/3, A/53/511 and A/C.5/53/SR.28)		487 100	
	(c) Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.13 (A/C.5/53/35 and A/C.5/53/SR.45)		94 800	
	(d) Recosting of outstanding statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates (A/C.5/53/49 and A/C.5/53/SR.45)		(5 500)	
	Total	**41 454 500**	**(113 300)**	**41 341 200**
1B.	General Assembly affairs and conference services	436 829 200		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(9 175 400)	
	Total	**436 829 200**	**(9 175 400)**	**427 653 800**
2A.	Political affairs	42 061 500		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(827 600)	
	Total	**42 061 500**	**(827 600)**	**41 233 900**
2B.	Disarmament	13 310 600		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(334 700)	
	Total	**13 310 600**	**(334 700)**	**12 975 900**

Section		Amount approved in resolutions 52/221 A and B	Increase/(decrease) approved at the current session	Total
			(United States dollars)	
3.	Peacekeeping operations and special missions	146 760 600		
	(a) First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(1 190 400)	
	(b) The situation in Central America: Central American peace process (A/C.5/53/33 and A/C.5/53/SR.33)		184 300	
	(c) The situation in Central America: MINUGUA (1 January to 31 December 1999) (A/C.5/53/32 and Corr.1, A/53/674 and A/C.5/53/SR.33)		22 640 800	
	(d) The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (A/C.5/53/45, A/53/734 and A/C.5/53/SR.42, 43 and 45)		5 896 200	
	(e) The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti: International Civilian Mission in Haiti (1 January to 31 December 1999) (A/C.5/53/39 and A/C.5/53/SR.39)		5 919 800	
	(f) United Nations Political Office in Bougainville (1 January to 31 December 1999) (A/C.5/53/47 and A/C.5/53/SR.44)		1 395 300	
	(g) Recosting of outstanding statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates (A/C.5/53/49 and A/C.5/53/SR.45)		(182 900)	
	Total	**146 760 600**	**34 663 100**	**181 423 700**
4.	Peaceful uses of outer space	3 967 300		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(32 500)	
	Total	**3 967 300**	**(32 500)**	**3 934 800**
5.	International Court of Justice	20 479 300		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		180 300	
	Total	**20 479 300**	**180 300**	**20 659 600**

Section		Amount approved in resolutions 52/221 A and B	Increase/(decrease) approved at the current session	Total
		(United States dollars)		
6.	Legal affairs	33 035 400		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(586 200)	
	Total	**33 035 400**	**(586 200)**	**32 449 200**
7A.	Economic and social affairs	109 262 300		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(2 303 900)	
	Total	**109 262 300**	**(2 303 900)**	**106 958 400**
8.	Africa: New Agenda for Development	5 385 200		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(155 200)	
	Total	**5 385 200**	**(155 200)**	**5 230 000**
11A.	Trade and development	96 296 900		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(3 000 500)	
	Total	**96 296 900**	**(3 000 500)**	**93 296 400**
11B.	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO	19 812 700		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)			
	Total	**19 812 700**	**—**	**19 812 700**
12.	Environment	8 807 400		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(50 800)	
	Total	**8 807 400**	**(50 800)**	**8 756 600**
13.	Human settlements	12 790 300		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(201 600)	
	Total	**12 790 300**	**(201 600)**	**12 588 700**

Section		*Amount approved in resolutions 52/221 A and B*	*Increase/(decrease) approved at the current session*	*Total*
			(United States dollars)	
14.	Crime control	5 413 600		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(56 300)	
	Total	**5 413 600**	**(56 300)**	**5 357 300**
15.	International drug control	14 825 500		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(97 100)	
	Total	**14 825 500**	**(97 100)**	**14 728 400**
16.	Economic and social development in Africa	87 926 400		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(7 318 600)	
	Total	**87 926 400**	**(7 318 600)**	**80 607 800**
17.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	56 167 500		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		508 400	
	Total	**56 167 500**	**508 400**	**56 675 900**
18.	Economic development in Europe	44 875 400		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(1 325 800)	
	Total	**44 875 400**	**(1 325 800)**	**43 549 600**
19.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	87 906 900		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(5 222 900)	
	Total	**87 906 900**	**(5 222 900)**	**82 684 000**
20.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	49 925 000		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(172 700)	
	Total	**49 925 000**	**(172 700)**	**49 752 300**

Section		Amount approved in resolutions 52/221 A and B	Increase/(decrease) approved at the current session	Total
			(United States dollars)	
21.	Regular programme of technical cooperation	43 567 700		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(912 500)	
	Total	**43 567 700**	**(912 500)**	**42 655 200**
22.	Human rights	42 201 500		
	(a) First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(1 419 000)	
	(b) International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/C.5/53/36 and A/C.5/53/SR.38)		33 200	
	(c) Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/C.5/53/37 and A/C.5/53/SR.38)		19 000	
	(d) Recosting of outstanding statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates (A/C.5/53/49 and A/C.5/53/SR.45)		(2 100)	
	Total	**42 201 500**	**(1 368 900)**	**40 832 600**
23.	Protection of and assistance to refugees	46 005 900		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(954 900)	
	Total	**46 005 900**	**(954 900)**	**45 051 000**
24.	Palestine refugees	21 221 800		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		583 000	
	Total	**21 221 800**	**583 000**	**21 804 800**
25.	Humanitarian assistance	17 933 700		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(350 500)	
	Total	**17 933 700**	**(350 500)**	**17 583 200**

Section		Amount approved in resolutions 52/221 A and B	Increase/(decrease) approved at the current session	Total
			(United States dollars)	
26.	Communications and public information	138 040 400		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(2 466 400)	
	Total	**138 040 400**	**(2 466 400)**	**135 574 000**
27.	Administrative services	446 190 700		
	(a) First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(5 291 200)	
	(b) Administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (A/C.5/53/3, A/53/511 and A/C.5/53/SR.28)		(1 112 500)	
	(c) Integrated Management Information System project (A/53/573, A/53/7/Add.7 and A/C.5/53/SR.37, 41, 42 and 45)		3 300 000	
	(d) Recosting of outstanding statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates (A/C.5/53/49 and A/C.5/53/SR.45)		10 800	
	Total	**446 190 700**	**(3 092 900)**	**443 097 800**
28.	Internal oversight	18 359 600		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(418 100)	
	Total	**18 359 600**	**(418 100)**	**17 941 500**
29.	Jointly financed administrative activities	5 627 400		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		196 800	
	Total	**5 627 400**	**196 800**	**5 824 200**
30.	Special expenses	52 837 000		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(152 700)	
	Total	**52 837 000**	**(152 700)**	**52 684 300**

Section		*Amount approved in resolutions 52/221 A and B*	*Increase/(decrease) approved at the current session*	*Total*
			(United States dollars)	
31.	Capital expenditures	34 550 300		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(377 200)	
	Total	**34 550 300**	**(377 200)**	**34 173 100**
32.	Staff assessment	315 436 700		
	(a) First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(4 585 000)	
	(b) The situation in Central America: Central American peace process (A/C.5/53/33 and A/C.5/53/SR.33)		34 800	
	(c) The situation in Central America: MINUGUA (1 January to 31 December 1999) (A/C.5/53/32 and Corr.1, A/53/674 and A/C.5/53/SR.33)		2 465 700	
	(d) The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (A/C.5/53/45, A/53/734 and A/C.5/53/SR.42, 43 and 45)		412 100	
	(e) The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti: International Civilian Mission in Haiti (1 January to 31 December 1999) (A/C.5/53/39 and A/C.5/53/SR.39)		849 800	
	(f) United Nations Political Office in Bougainville (1 January to 31 December 1999) (A/C.5/53/47 and A/C.5/53/SR.44)		148 300	
	(g) Recosting of outstanding statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates (A/C.5/53/49 and A/C.5/53/SR.45)		(15 800)	
	Total	**315 436 700**	**(690 100)**	**314 746 600**
34.	Development Account	13 065 000	—	13 065 000
	Grand total, expenditure estimates (gross)	**2 532 331 200**	**(5 627 700)**	**2 526 703 500**

Section		*Amount approved in resolutions 52/221 A and B*	*Increase/(decrease) approved at the current session*	*Total*
			(United States dollars)	
B.	**Income sections**			
1.	Income from staff assessment	325 486 700		
	(a) First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(4 585 000)	
	(b) The situation in Central America: Central American peace process (A/C.5/53/33 and A/C.5/53/SR.33)		34 800	
	(c) The situation in Central America: MINUGUA (1 January to 31 December 1999) (A/C.5/53/32 and Corr.1 and A/C.5/53/SR.33)		2 465 700	
	(d) The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (A/C.5/53/45, A/53/734 and A/C.5/53/SR.42, 43 and 45)		412 100	
	(e) The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti: International Civilian Mission in Haiti (1 January to 31 December 1999) (A/C.5/53/39 and A/C.5/53/SR.39)		849 800	
	(f) United Nations Political Office in Bougainville (1 January to 31 December 1999) (A/C.5/53/47 and A/C.5/53/SR.44)		148 300	
	(g) Recosting of outstanding statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates (A/C.5/53/49 and A/C.5/53/SR.45)		(15 800)	
	Total	**325 486 700**	**(690 100)**	**324 796 600**
2.	General income	33 743 600		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(158 200)	
	Total	**33 743 600**	**(158 200)**	**33 585 400**
3.	Services to the public	4 610 000		
	First performance report (A/53/693, A/53/7/Add.8 and A/C.5/53/SR.39–41 and 45)		(302 400)	
	Total	**4 610 000**	**(302 400)**	**4 307 600**
	Grand total, income estimates	**363 840 300**	**(1 150 700)**	**362 689 600**

10. At its 45th meeting, on 16 December, the Committee considered the revised estimates of expenditure and income to be recommended for approval by the General Assembly for the biennium 1998–1999, as well as the financing of the appropriations for the year 1999. The Committee took the following action:

(a) The Committee approved the revised budget appropriations for the biennium 1998–1999 (see para. 43, draft resolution II A);

(b) The Committee approved the revised income estimates for the biennium 1998–1999 (see para. 43, draft resolution II B);

(c) The Committee approved the draft resolution on the financing of the appropriations for the year 1999 (see para. 43, draft resolution II C).

III. Consideration of special subjects

1. Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 1999

11. The Committee considered this question at its 28th meeting, on 16 November. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/53/29). The report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman.

12. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided, without a vote, to approve the recommendation for a subvention of $213,000 from the regular budget of the United Nations for 1999, on the understanding that no additional appropriation would be required under section 2B, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 (see para. 43, draft resolution I A, sect. I).

2. Office accommodation at the Palais Wilson

13. The Committee considered this question at its 25th and 26th meetings, on 12 and 13 November. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on a cost-benefit analysis on the use of existing conference facilities at the Palais Wilson in Geneva (A/53/302).

14. At its 26th meeting, on 13 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on a cost-benefit analysis on the use of existing conference facilities at the Palais Wilson in Geneva (see para. 43, draft resolution I A, sect. II).

3. Net budgeting, including its impact on the functioning of the entities concerned

15. The Committee considered this question at its 39th meeting, on 4 December. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/53/410). The report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman.

16. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on net budgeting, including its impact on the functioning of the entities concerned and endorse the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (see para. 43, draft resolution I A, sect. III).

4. First performance report

17. The Committee considered this question at its 39th–41st and 45th meetings, on 4, 7, 8 and 16 December. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/53/693) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/7/Add.8).

18. At its 45th meeting, on 16 December, the Chairman introduced a draft resolution entitled "First performance report" (A/C.5/53/L.36). At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.36 without a vote (see para. 43, draft resolution I A, sect. IV).

5. Consolidation of technical secretariat servicing of intergovernmental bodies

19. The Committee considered this question at its 42nd meeting, on 10 December. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/53/452).

20. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General and revert to this question as appropriate in the context of the reform process (see para. 43, draft resolution I A, sect. V).

6. Construction of additional conference facilities at Addis Ababa and Bangkok

21. The Committee considered this question at its 25th meeting, on 12 November. It had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/52/579 and A/53/347) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/7/Add.5).

22. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the construction of conference facilities at Addis Ababa and Bangkok and endorse the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 5 of its report (see para. 43, draft resolution I A, sect. VI).

7. Integrated Management Information System project

23. The Committee considered this question at its 37th, 41st, 42nd and 45th meetings, on 30 November and 8, 10 and 16 December. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/53/573), the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the study of the Integrated Management Information System conducted by independent experts (A/53/662) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/7/Add.7).

24. At the 45th meeting, on 16 December, the Chairman introduced a draft resolution entitled "Integrated Management Information System project" (A/C.5/53/L.32), submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

25. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.32 without a vote (see para. 43, draft resolution I A, sect. VII).

8. Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice, judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, and judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

26. The Committee considered this question at its 28th and 43rd meetings, on 16 November and 14 December. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice (A/C.5/53/11) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/7/Add.6).

27. At the 43rd meeting, on 14 December, the Chairman introduced a draft resolution entitled "Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice, judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, and judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994" (A/C.5/53/L.25).

28. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.25 without a vote (see para. 43, draft resolution I A, sect. VIII).

9. United Nations Political Office in Bougainville

29. The Committee considered this question at its 44th meeting, on 15 December. It had before it the report of the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville: revised estimates under section 3, Peacekeeping operations and special missions; section 32, Staff assessment; and income section 1, Income from staff assessment (A/C.5/53/47). The report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman.

30. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the estimate of $1,395,300 under section 3, Peacekeeping operations and special missions, and $148,300 under section 32. Staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999, on the understanding that such additional appropriations as may be necessary will be dealt with outside the procedures related to the contingency fund, as provided in annex I, paragraph 11, of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 (see para. 43, draft resolution I A, sect. IX).

10. Contingency fund

31. The Committee considered this question at its 45th meeting, on 16 December. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/53/48).

32. At the same meeting, the Fifth Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the General Assembly that it appropriate the required amounts, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General, and that it note that a balance of $15,307,800 would remain in the contingency fund (see para. 43, draft resolution I A, sect. X).

11. Recosting of outstanding statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates

33. The Committee considered this question at its 45th meeting, on 16 December. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/53/L.49). The report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman at the 45th meeting.

34. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General and that the recosting and the related adjustments be reflected in the revised appropriation for the biennium 1998–1999 (see para. 43, draft resolution I A, sect. XI).

12. Financial arrangements associated with the dining room at the International Court of Justice

35. The Committee considered this question at its 25th and 42nd meetings, on 12 November and 10 December. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/53/19).

36. At the 42nd meeting, on 10 December, the Chairman of the Committee introduced a draft decision entitled "Financial arrangements associated with the dining room at the International Court of Justice" (A/C.5/53/L.17), submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

37. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/53/L.17 without a vote (see para. 44, draft decision I).

13. Relationship between the treatment of perennial activities in the programme budget and the use of the contingency fund

38. The Committee considered this question at its 42nd and 45th meetings, on 10 and 16 December. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/52/42) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/7/Add.9).

39. At its 45th meeting, on 16 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it defer consideration of the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee (see para. 44, draft decision II).

14. Development Account

40. The Committee considered this question at its 3rd, 4th, 15th, 28th, 40th and 45th meetings, on 5, 6 and 29 October, 16 November and 7 and 16 December. It had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/52/1009 and A/53/374) and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/7/Add.1 and 4).

41. At the 45th meeting, on 15 December, the Chairman introduced a draft decision entitled "Development Account" (A/C.5/53/L.34), submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

42. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/53/L.34 without a vote (see para. 44, draft decision III).

IV. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

43. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999

A

The General Assembly,

I

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 1999

Approves the recommendation for a subvention of $213, 000 United States dollars from the regular budget of the United Nations to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research for 1999, on the understanding that no additional appropriation would be required under section 2B, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999;

II

Office accommodation at the Palais Wilson

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on a cost-benefit analysis on the use of existing conference facilities at the Palais Wilson in Geneva;[1]

III

Net budgeting, including its impact on the functioning of the entities concerned

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on net budgeting, including its impact on the functioning of the entities concerned,[2] and endorses the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

[1] A/53/302.
[2] A/53/410.

IV

First performance report

The General Assembly,

Having considered the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999[3] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4]

1. *Reaffirms* the budgetary process as approved in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and as reaffirmed in subsequent resolutions;

2. *Reaffirms also* its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997;

3. *Takes note* of the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

4. *Reaffirms* the requirement of all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations as set out in the Charter of the United Nations promptly and in full and without imposing conditions;

5. *Recognizes* the detrimental effect of the withholding of assessed contributions on the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations;

6. *Approves* a net decrease of 48,200,900 dollars in the appropriations approved for the biennium 1998–1999, and a net decrease of 4,552,500 dollars in the estimates of income for the biennium 1998–1999, to be apportioned among expenditure and income sections as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General;

7. *Expresses concern* about the fact that a number of sections of the programme budget continue to reflect high levels of vacancy, which could have an impact on the full implementation of the programmes and activities mandated by the General Assembly;

8. *Reiterates* that the vacancy rate is a tool for budgetary calculations and should not be used to achieve budgetary savings;

9. *Reiterates* that a high vacancy rate hampers the delivery of mandated programmes and activities and stresses that deliberate management decisions to keep a certain number of posts vacant makes the budget process less transparent and the management of staff resources more difficult;

10. *Reaffirms* that only the General Assembly has the authority to establish and abolish posts in the regular budget;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to immediately intensify recruitment efforts, in order to reduce the number of vacancies, particularly in those areas where there are high vacancy rates;

12. *Decides* that the vacancy rate for posts in the Professional and higher categories should not be more than 5 per cent at the end of the biennium 1998–1999 and, in this context, requests the Secretary-General to take all the necessary steps to achieve this objective;

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[3] A/53/693.

[4] A/53/7/Add.8. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 7.*

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance the Office of the President of the General Assembly by taking all the necessary steps to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 1B.10 of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals",[5] as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/220, so as to provide transparency and accountability and thereby strengthen the ability of the President of the General Assembly to effectively and efficiently discharge the responsibilities of the Office as deemed appropriate;

14. *Decides* that the President of the General Assembly, consistent with the approved programme budget, should have full authority to use the funds provided in the budget for the Office, including hospitality and travel and any other requirements for the accomplishment of the official responsibilities;

15. *Takes note* that paragraphs 74 to 80 of its resolution 52/220 defined the procedures to be followed in the proposed programme budget in dealing with activities related to country special rapporteurs whose mandates had expired in 1997 and, as a consequence, there were no individual mandates for their inclusion in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999;

16. *Reaffirms* that, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 79 of its resolution 52/220, no funds directly related to these non-mandated activities could be committed to them pending the consideration of the report on the relationship between the treatment of perennial activities and the use of the contingency fund, as requested in paragraph 78 of its resolution 52/220;

17. *Regrets* that the provisions of the decision contained in paragraph 79 of resolution 52/220 were not implemented, since the required report was not considered before 1998 activities related to country special rapporteurs were implemented;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to improve the presentation of the budget performance reports by separately reflecting the impact of average vacancy rates in changes related to salaries and common staff costs for each budget section;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide an explanation when average vacancy rates are higher than the level approved by the General Assembly;

20. *Reiterates* the need for the Secretary-General to ensure that resources are utilized strictly for the purposes approved by the General Assembly;

21. *Regrets* the tendency towards excessive use of consultants, in particular in areas where in-house expertise is available, and requests the Secretary-General to resort in future to the use of consultants only when in-house expertise is not available and in accordance with the existing rules and regulations and relevant resolutions;

22. *Reaffirms* that changes in mandated programmes and activities are the prerogative of the General Assembly;

V

Consolidation of technical secretariat servicing of intergovernmental bodies

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General[6] and decides to revert to this question as appropriate in the context of the reform process;

[5] A/52/303.

[6] A/53/452.

VI

Construction of additional conference facilities at Addis Ababa and Bangkok

Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the construction of conference facilities at Addis Ababa and Bangkok[7] and endorses the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 5 of its report;[8]

VII

Integrated Management Information System project

Reaffirming its resolutions 43/217 of 21 December 1988 and 52/227 of 31 March 1998,

Having considered the tenth progress report of the Secretary-General,[9] the study of the Integrated Management Information System conducted by independent experts[10] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[11]

1. *Expresses* serious concern that the tenth progress report of the Secretary-General has not been submitted in full compliance with paragraph 13 of its resolution 52/227;

2. *Notes with concern* that the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services requested in paragraph 11 of resolution 52/227, which should have been taken into account in preparing the tenth progress report, has not been submitted;

3. *Requests* the Board of Auditors to review the status of the implementation of the recommendations contained in its updated special audit of the Integrated Management Information System[12] taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/227;

4. *Requests* the Board of Auditors to continue to monitor the activities related to the Integrated Management Information System project as part of its ongoing and regular audits of the financial statements;

5. *Reiterates* the request contained in paragraph 16 of resolution 52/227 that the Secretary-General ensure that adequate and qualified staff are assigned to the implementation and operation of the Integrated Management Information System at all duty stations;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all the necessary action to ensure that project-related activities are performed with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. *Decides* to defer further consideration of the tenth progress report of the Secretary-General, the study by the independent experts on the Integrated Management Information System and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the resumed fifty-third session, and requests the Secretary-General to submit through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary

[7] A/52/579 and A/53/347.
[8] A/53/7/Add.5.
[9] A/53/573.
[10] A/53/662, annex.
[11] A/53/7/Add.7.
[12] A/52/755, annex.

Questions an addendum to his report, taking into consideration the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

8. *Decides* to approve an additional appropriation of $3,300,000;

VIII

Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice, judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, and judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Recalling its resolutions 37/240 of 21 December 1982 on the Travel and Subsistence Regulations of the International Court of Justice, 45/250 of 21 December 1990 and 48/252 of 26 May 1994 and section IV of its resolution 50/216 of 23 December 1995 on the emoluments, pensions and other conditions of service of the members of the International Court of Justice, as well as paragraphs 1 and 5 of its resolution 52/217 of 22 December 1997 on the financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, paragraphs 1 and 6 of resolution 52/218 of 22 December 1997 on the financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, and resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997 on questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999,

Having considered the relevant reports of the Secretary-General[13] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[14]

1. *Approves* the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the emoluments, pensions and other conditions of service of the members of the International Court of Justice;

2. *Concurs* with the observation made by the Advisory Committee regarding a revision of article 7, paragraph 2, of the Pension Scheme Regulations for members of the International Court of Justice;[15]

3. *Decides*, in this regard, to amend article 7, paragraph 2, of the Pension Scheme Regulations for the members of the International Court of Justice to read as follows:

"Pensions in payment shall be automatically revised by the same percentage and at the same date as salary adjustments."

[13] A/C.5/53/11 and A/52/520.

[14] A/53/7/Add.6, A/52/696, A/52/697 and A/51/7/Add.8 and Corr.1 and 2.

[15] A/53/7/Add.6, para. 21.

4. *Approves* the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the emoluments, pensions and other conditions of service of the judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994;

5. *Also approves* the travel and subsistence regulations for the judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda contained in annex III of the report of the Secretary-General;[16]

6. *Further approves* the pension scheme regulations for the judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the pension scheme regulations for the judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda contained in annexes IV and V, respectively, of the report of the Secretary-General, with consequential modifications resulting from the decisions taken by the General Assembly at its current session;

7. *Decides* that the emoluments, pensions, and other conditions of service for the members of the International Court of Justice, the judges of the International Tribunal of the Former Yugoslavia and the judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda shall be reviewed at its fifty-sixth session.

IX

United Nations political office in Bougainville

Takes note of the estimate of $1,395,300 under section 3, Peacekeeping operations and special missions, and $148,300 under section 32, Staff assessment of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999, on the understanding that such additional appropriations as may be necessary will be dealt with outside the procedures related to the contingency fund, as provided in annex I, paragraph 11, of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986;

X

Contingency fund

Notes that a balance of 15,307,800 dollars remains in the contingency fund;

[16] A/52/520.

XI

Recosting of outstanding statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General[17] and decides that the recosting and the related adjustments should be reflected in the revised appropriation for the biennium 1998–1999.

[17] A/C.5/53/L.49.

Draft resolution II

Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999

A

Revised budget appropriations for the biennium 1998–1999

The General Assembly

Resolves that for the biennium 1998–1999 the amount of 2,532,331,200 United States dollars appropriated by it in its resolution 52/221 A of 22 December 1997 shall be adjusted by 5,627,700 dollars as follows:

Section		*Amount approved in resolution 52/221 A*	*Increase/(decrease)*	*Revised appropriation*
		(United States dollars)		
Part I.	**Overall policy-making, direction and coordination**			
1A.	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	41 454 500	(113 300)	41 341 200
1B.	General Assembly affairs and conference services	436 829 200	(9 175 400)	427 653 800
	Total, part I	**478 283 700**	**(9 288 700)**	**468 995 000**
Part II.	**Political Affairs**			
2A.	Political affairs	42 061 500	(827 600)	41 233 900
2B.	Disarmament	13 310 600	(334 700)	12 975 900
3.	Peacekeeping operations and special missions	146 760 600	34 663 100	181 423 700
4.	Peaceful uses of outer space	3 967 300	(32 500)	3 934 800
	Total, part II	**206 100 000**	**33 468 300**	**239 568 300**
Part III.	**International justice and law**			
5.	International Court of Justice	20 479 300	180 300	20 659 600
6.	Legal affairs	33 035 400	(586 200)	32 449 200
	Total, part III	**53 514 700**	**(405 900)**	**53 108 800**
Part IV.	**International cooperation for development**			
7A.	Economic and social affairs	109 262 300	(2 303 900)	106 958 400
8.	Africa: New Agenda for Development	5 385 200	(155 200)	5 230 000
11A.	Trade and development	96 296 900	(3 000 500)	93 296 400
11B.	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO	19 812 700	—	19 812 700
12.	Environment	8 807 400	(50 800)	8 756 600
13.	Human settlements	12 790 300	(201 600)	12 588 700

Section		Amount approved in resolution 52/221 A	Increase/(decrease)	Revised appropriation
			(United States dollars)	
14.	Crime control	5 413 600	(56 300)	5 357 300
15.	International drug control	14 825 500	(97 100)	14 728 400
	Total, part IV	**272 593 900**	**(5 865 400)**	**266 728 500**
Part V.	**Regional cooperation for development**			
16.	Economic and social development in Africa	87 926 400	(7 318 600)	80 607 800
17.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	56 167 500	508 400	56 675 900
18.	Economic development in Europe	44 875 400	(1 325 800)	43 549 600
19.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	87 906 900	(5 222 900)	82 684 000
20.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	49 925 000	(172 700)	49 752 300
21.	Regular programme of technical cooperation	43 567 700	(912 500)	42 655 200
	Total, part V	**370 368 900**	**(14 444 100)**	**355 924 800**
Part VI.	**Human rights and humanitarian affairs**			
22.	Human rights	42 201 500	(1 368 900)	40 832 600
23.	Protection of and assistance to refugees	46 005 900	(954 900)	45 051 000
24.	Palestine refugees	21 221 800	583 000	21 804 800
25.	Humanitarian assistance	17 933 700	(350 500)	17 583 200
	Total, part VI	**127 362 900**	**(2 091 300)**	**125 271 600**
Part VII.	**Public information**			
26.	Communications and public information	138 040 400	(2 466 400)	135 574 000
	Total, part VII	**138 040 400**	**(2 466 400)**	**135 574 000**
Part VIII.	**Common support services**			
27.	Administrative services	446 190 700	(3 092 900)	443 097 800
	Total, part VIII	**446 190 700**	**(3 092 900)**	**443 097 800**
Part IX.	**Internal oversight**			
28.	Internal oversight	18 359 600	(418 100)	17 941 500
	Total, part IX	**18 359 600**	**(418 100)**	**17 941 500**

Section	Amount approved in resolution 52/221 A	Increase/(decrease)	Revised appropriation
	(United States dollars)		
Part X. Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses			
29. Jointly financed administrative activities	5 627 400	196 800	5 824 200
30. Special expenses	52 837 000	(152 700)	52 684 300
Total, part X	**58 464 400**	**44 100**	**58 508 500**
Part XI. Capital expenditures			
31. Capital expenditures	34 550 300	(377 200)	34 173 100
Total, part XI	**34 550 300**	**(377 200)**	**34 173 100**
Part XII. Staff assessment			
32. Staff assessment	315 436 700	(690 100)	314 746 600
Total, part XII	**315 436 700**	**(690 100)**	**314 746 600**
Part XIII. Development account			
34. Development account	13 065 000	—	13 065 000
Total, part XIII	**13 065 000**	**—**	**13 065 000**
Grand total, expenditure estimates	**2 532 331 200**	**(5 627 700)**	**2 526 703 500**

B

Revised income estimates for the biennium 1998–1999

The General Assembly

Resolves that, for the biennium 1998–1999, the estimates of income of 363,840,300 United States dollars approved by it in its resolution 52/221 B of 22 December 1997 shall be decreased by 1,150,700 dollars, as follows:

Income sections	Amount approved in resolution 52/221 B	Increase/(decrease)	Revised appropriation
	(United States dollars)		
1. Income from staff assessment	325 486 700	(690 100)	324 812 400
Total, income section 1	**325 486 700**	**(690 100)**	**324 812 400**
2. General income	33 743 600	(158 200)	33 585 400
3. Services to the public	4 610 000	(302 400)	4 307 600
Total, income sections 2 and 3	**38 353 600**	**(460 600)**	**37 893 000**
Grand total	**363 840 300**	**(1 150 700)**	**362 705 400**

C

Financing of appropriations for the year 1999

The General Assembly

Resolves that for the year 1999:

1. Budget appropriations totalling 1,260,537,900 dollars and consisting of 1,266,165,600 dollars, being half of the appropriations initially approved for the biennium 1998–1999 in resolution 52/221 A of 22 December 1997, less 5,627,700 dollars, being the reduction approved by the Assembly in resolution A above, shall be financed in accordance with regulations 5.1 and 5.2 of the Financial Regulations as follows:

(a) 42,955,681 dollars, consisting of:

(i) 19,176,800 dollars, being half of the estimated income other than income from staff assessment approved for the biennium 1998–1999 by the Assembly in its resolution 52/221 B of 22 December 1997;

(ii) Less 460,600 dollars, being the reduction approved by the Assembly in resolution B above;

(iii) 24,239,481 dollars, being the balance in the surplus account as at 31 December 1997;

(b) 1,217,582,219 dollars, being the assessment on Member States in accordance with its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997 on the scale of assessments for the years 1998 and 1999;

2. There shall be set off against the assessment on Member States, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 973 (X) A of 15 December 1955, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund in the total amount of 178,491,720 dollars, consisting of:

(a) 162,743,350 dollars, being half of the estimated staff assessment income approved by the Assembly in its resolution 52/221 B;

(b) Less 690,100 dollars, being the estimated decrease in income from staff assessment approved by the Assembly in resolution B above;

(c) Plus 16,438,470 dollars, being the increase in income from staff assessment for the biennium 1996–1997 compared with the revised estimates approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/213 B of 22 December 1997.

* * *

44. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Financial arrangements associated with the dining room at the International Court of Justice

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on financial arrangements associated with the dining room at the International Court of Justice,[18] with the understanding, provided by the Secretariat, that the United Nations provides no subsidy in any form for the operation of the dining room at the International Court of Justice.

Draft decision II

Relationship between the treatment of perennial activities in the programme budget and the use of the contingency fund

Decides to defer consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the relationship between the treatment of perennial activities in the programme budget and the use of the contingency fund[19] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.[20]

Draft decision III

Development Account

The General Assembly decides to defer consideration of the proposals contained in the reports of the Secretary-General on the Development Account[21] and related actions recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[22] to the first part of its resumed fifty-third session.

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[18] A/C.5/53/19.

[19] A/C.5/52/42.

[20] A/53/7/Add.9.

[21] A/52/1009 and A/53/374.

[22] A/53/7/Add.1 and 4.